



## SDG Discussion Guide

Matthew 2:1-12

January 7, 2018

For starters:

What wise man or woman have you known? What do you remember most about them? Or what did you learn from them?

What is something you like to do here at the start of a new year-- it could be anything? Or what is something you don't like to do or tend to avoid at the start of a new year?

Do you have any New Year's resolutions and if so what is one or two of them?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

Read slowly and aloud the selected text in your group, taking turns as you can. Before doing so, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Note well what points and questions are raised for you. As time permits, read the passage a second time-- slowly and aloud. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read and reread the text, what points and questions of the text arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. What else did you notice? Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for reflection and discussion.

1. Why was it important that Jesus be born in Bethlehem? See Micah 5:2.
2. Why would the Magi leave everything in order to follow "his star" (v 2)?
3. In light of the prophecy (v 6), why was Herod so concerned that the baby be found?
4. Trace the responses of the Magi upon seeing Jesus. How is that similar to the response that Christians make to Jesus? How is it different?
5. What do the Magi, the star, the gifts, the homage, the hostility, and the prophecy teach about the nature and significance of Jesus?
6. In your "journey" toward God, how are you like the Magi? Unlike them? Have you had to leave anything or anyone to follow Jesus? What did you learn in the process. Trade stories of your experiences.
7. What is the "gold, incense and myrrh" in your life? How have you offered this to Jesus?

Spend plenty of time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you to pray. Ask God to continue to give you his perspective for you and those close to you for 2018. Where and how is he calling you in this new season? Ask him for an extra portion of hope and courage to indeed be able to pursue his calling.

\*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).